



Does School Quality Influence the Housing Choices of Navy Personnel?

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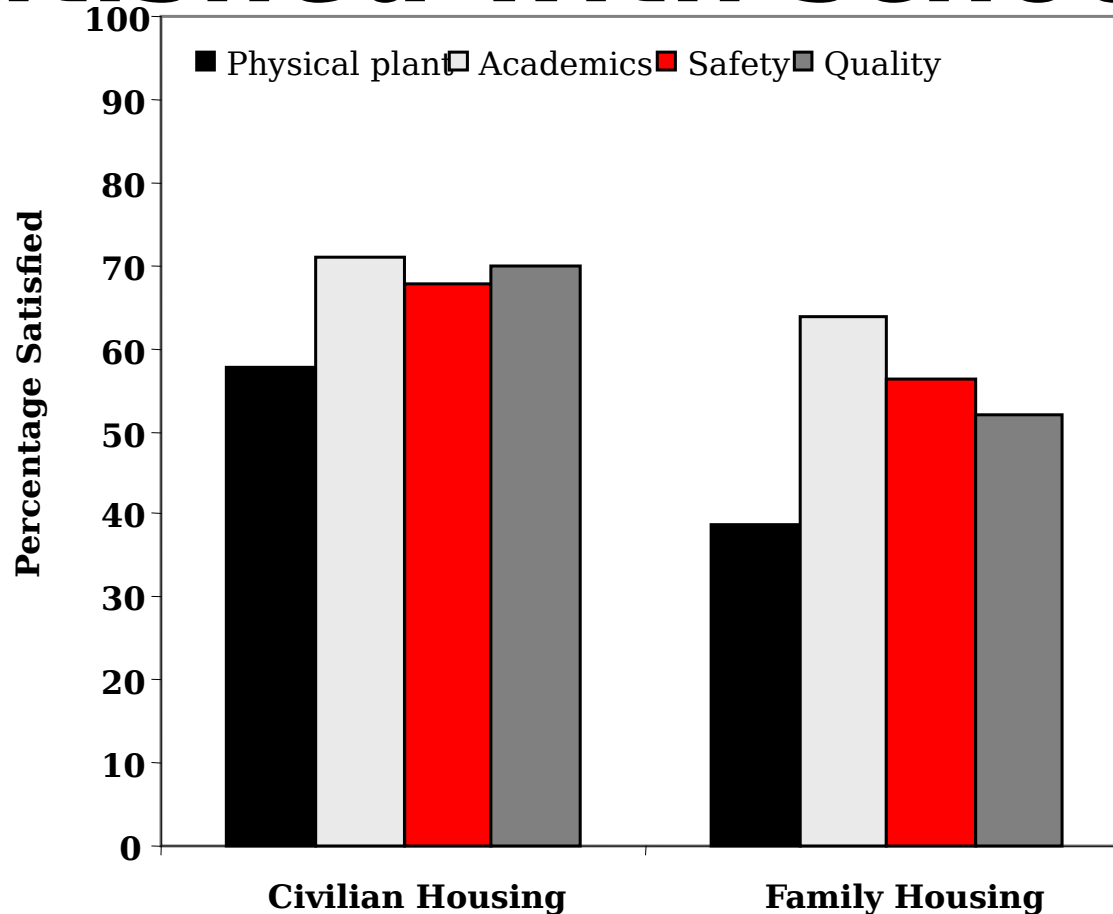
The choice of where to live

- School quality is very important to civilians
 - For example, test scores → housing prices
- Anecdotal evidence indicates school quality is *at least as* important to military families
 - Therefore, school quality influences housing decisions *and* quality of life
- Include 7 largest Navy bases:
 - Bangor/Bremerton, Everett/Whidbey, Jacksonville, Norfolk, Pearl Harbor, Pensacola, San Diego

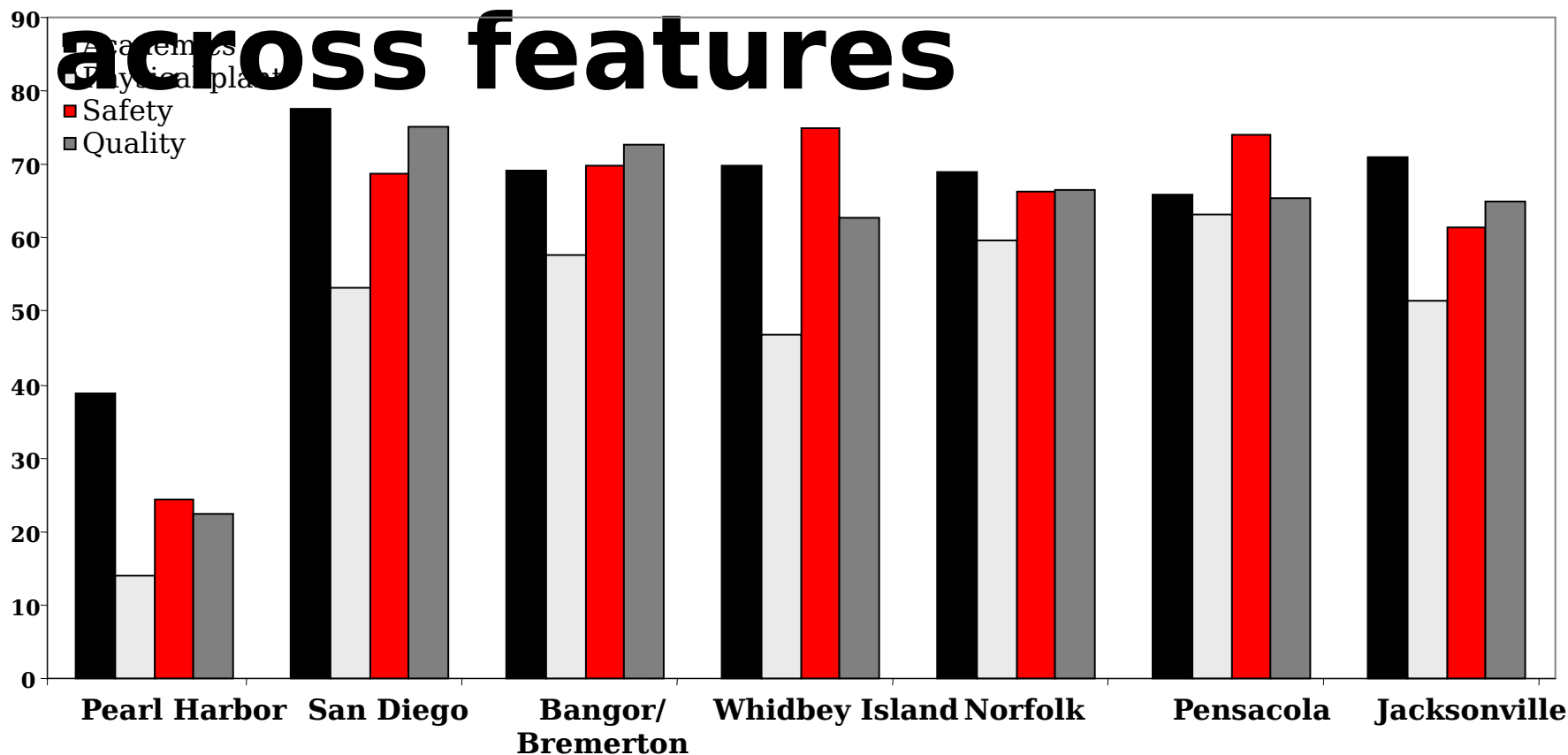
Choosing family housing is choosing a specific school:

- For those in the military:
 - Choosing family housing → sending their children to the public schools serving the family housing community
 - Choosing civilian housing → choosing between several or many schools
- This suggests those in family housing will attend lower-quality schools

Parents in family housing are less satisfied with schools



Satisfaction varies across bases and across features



Some bases offer many ~~choices, some do not~~

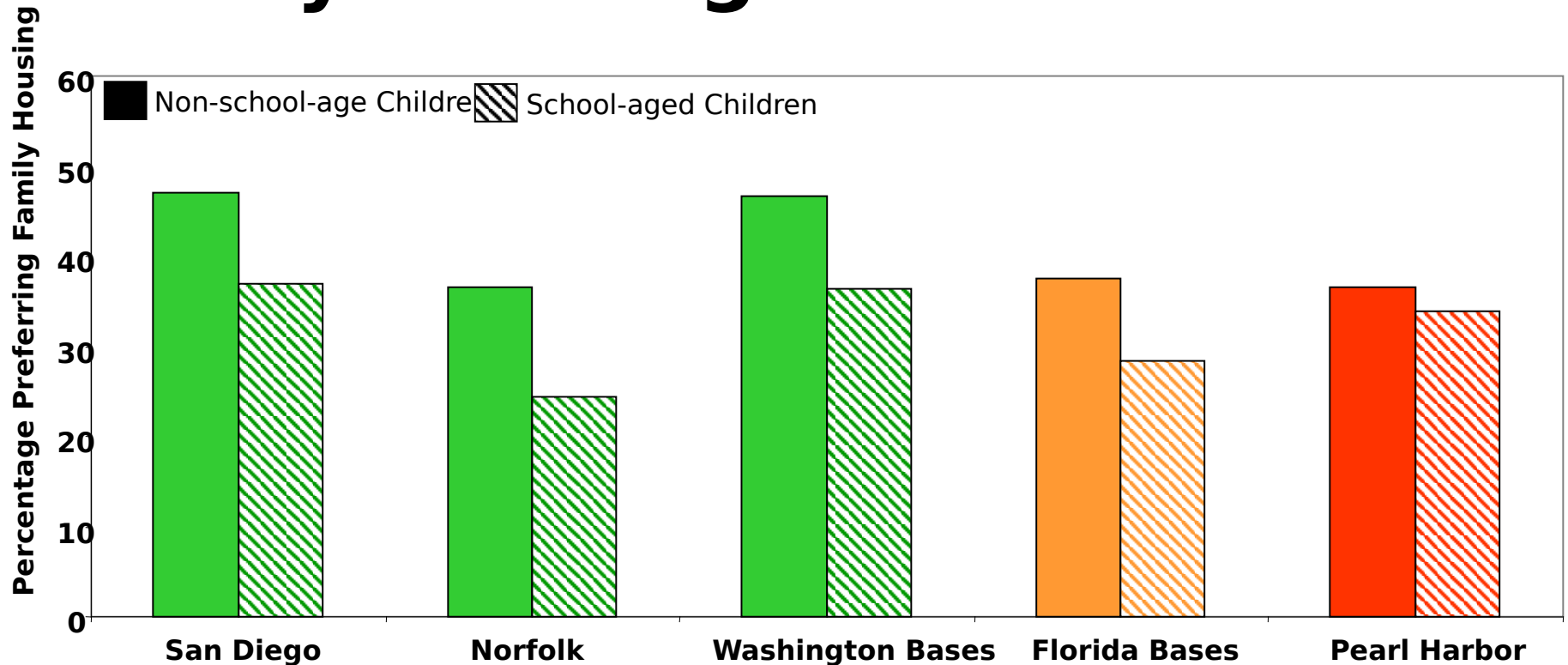
Base	Districts
San Diego	30
Whidbey/Everett	18
Norfolk	12
Bangor/Bremerton	9
Jacksonville	9
Pensacola	4
Pearl Harbor	1

A few high quality ~~schools may be enough~~

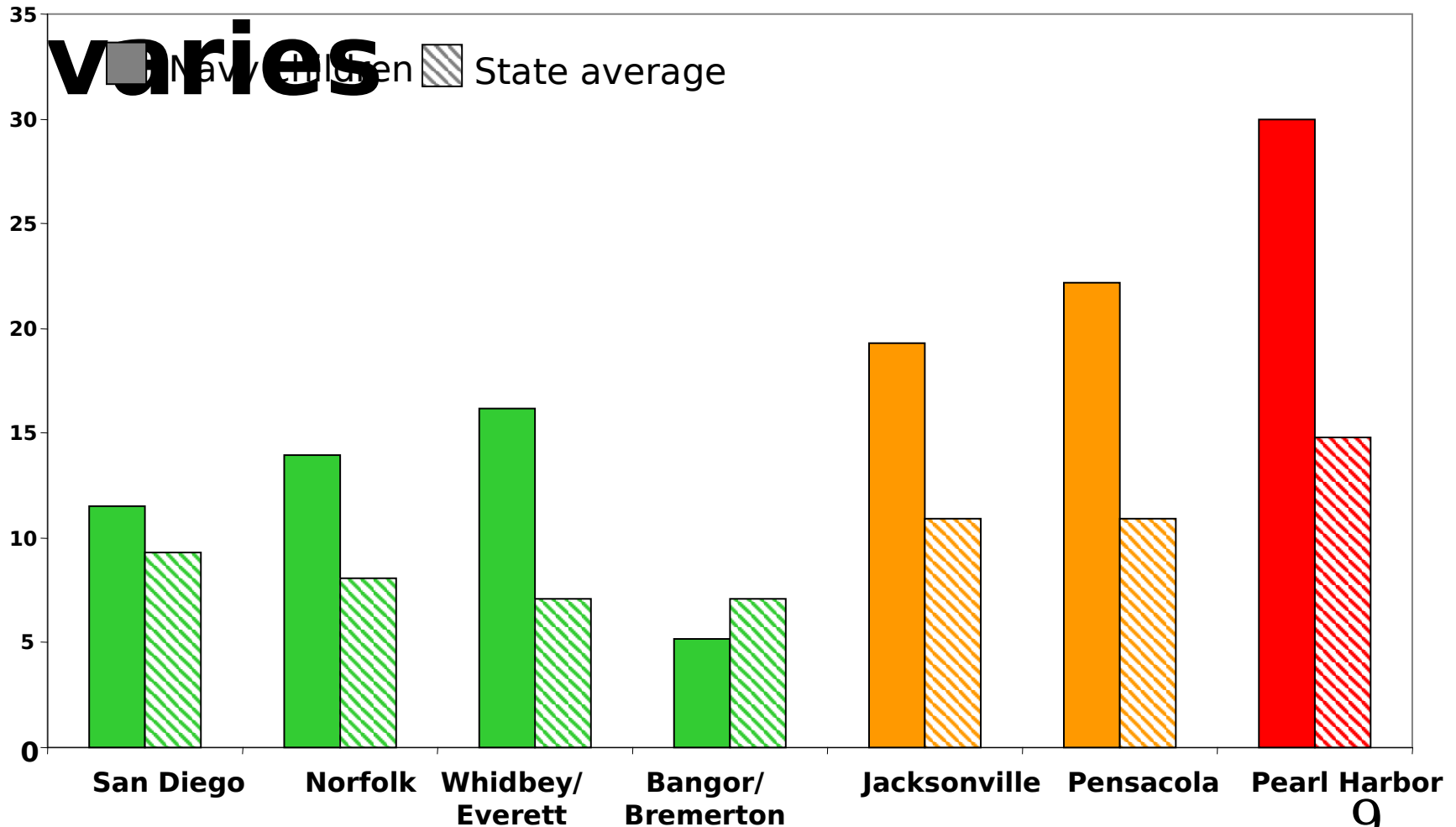
Quality

		High	Low
Choice	Many	San Diego Norfolk	Jacksonville Pensacola
	Few	Whidbey/Everett Bangor/Bremerton	Pearl Harbor

Parents with School Age Children Less Likely to Prefer Family Housing



Percentage of students in private schools



What we see at bases ~~with substantial choice:~~

- Correlation between school quality and overall satisfaction with the Navy (Norfolk)
- We find no retention effect at any base
 - Could be due to small samples and lack of variation at some bases

Implications



- School choice can influence housing preferences
 - If all options are poor, school quality less likely to influence decisions
- PPVs are unlikely to improve the quality of schools Navy children attend
 - In most cases, Navy contributes land they already own → PPVs will be located in same districts as current family housing

Questions?

Sample by base

